

Humane Society of the United States and Humane Society Legislative Fund Honor U.S. Rep. McCollum for Animal Welfare Leadership in 2009

WASHINGTON, DC (March 3, 2010) - On behalf of its more than 20,000 supporters in Minnesota's 4th district, The Humane Society of the United States, together with its affiliate, the Humane Society Legislative Fund, will present an award to U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum, D-Minn., for her leadership on animal protection legislation in 2009.

Rep. McCollum received a Humane Advocate award for earning a perfect score on the 2009 Humane Scorecard.

"We commend Representative McCollum for being a tremendous advocate of animal protection policies in the U.S. Congress," said Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The HSUS. "Her consistent support across the range of issues that affects animals is so deeply appreciated."

Every year, the Humane Society Legislative Fund compiles a federal Humane Scorecard to provide a snapshot of animal protection issues considered by the U.S. Congress and give animal advocates a tool to assess the performance of their Senators and Representatives. The scorecard tracks key votes as well as co-sponsorship of important pro-animal bills and signing an annual letter seeking funds needed to enforce key animal welfare laws. For 2009, House ratings included votes on issues ranging from stopping the commerce in primates as exotic pets to protecting wild horses from commercial sale and slaughter to assisting with the conservation of cranes, big cats, and other rare species, and co-sponsorship of priority bills on horse slaughter, fur labeling, overuse of antibiotics in animal agriculture, and chimpanzees in research.

In total, 131 legislators - one-third of the Senate and nearly one-quarter of the House (representing 36 states and two U. S. territories) - will receive awards for their work in 2009. To see the complete list of 2009 awardees, please [click here](#).

"We're grateful to the many Members of Congress who are helping to forge a path to a more humane future through their demonstrated leadership on animal protection legislation," said HSLF President Michael Markarian. "Our animal welfare laws are a reflection of our basic values and attitudes shared by people across the country."

Pacelle and Markarian presented the award at a reception on Wednesday, March 3 at the U.S. Capitol.

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The Humane Society of the United States is the nation's largest animal protection organization - backed by 11 million Americans, or one of every 28. For more than a half-century, The HSUS has been fighting for the protection of all animals through advocacy, education and hands-on programs. Celebrating animals and confronting cruelty - On the web at humanesociety.org.

The Humane Society Legislative Fund is a social welfare organization incorporated under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and formed in 2004 as a separate lobbying affiliate of The Humane Society of the United States. The HSLF works to pass animal protection laws at the state and federal level, to educate the public about animal protection issues, and to support humane candidates for office. On the web at hslf.org.